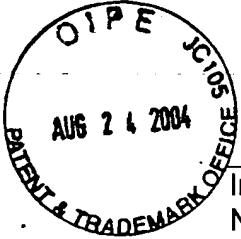


08-26-04

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1765



Docket No.: **56775(70551)**
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Norio Kanetsuki et al.

Application No.: 10/015,446

Confirmation No.: 4596

Filed: December 12, 2001

Art Unit: 1765

For: PLASMA PROCESSING METHOD

Examiner: L. Vinh

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

**MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date, OR more than three months after the date of entry of the national stage of a PCT application, AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, whichever occurs first, but before the mailing date of a Final Office Action or Notice of Allowance (37 CFR 1.97(c)).

I hereby certify that each item of information newly cited in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

A summary/abstract translation of the non-English language references is enclosed.

A copy of reference BA listed on the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08 is attached.

A concise explanation of relevance of the items listed on attached Form PTO/SB/08 is given for each listed item.

The documents cited and provided herewith were cited in a Japanese Official Action on 3 August 2004 in an application corresponding to this application (a copy of the Japanese Office Action, dated 3 August 2004, and an English language translation thereof are attached hereto). Applicants have confirmed orally with the Japanese Patent Office that Japanese Laid-Open Publication No. 09-032687 listed in the Japanese language version of the Japanese Official Action of 3 August 2004 was intended to read "Japanese Laid-Open Publication No. 09-082687.

A full copy of the Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 09-082687 cited in the attached Japanese Office Action was filed previously in the subject application on 28 June 2004. Accordingly, with respect to the just mentioned Japanese Laid-Open Publication a copy of only the front page of the Japanese language document is being provided herewith (see item BB).

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.


It is submitted that this Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

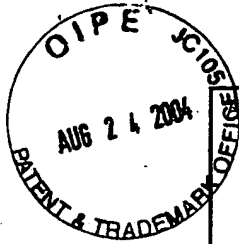
If the Examiner has any questions concerning this Information Disclosure Statement, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. Further, if it is determined that this Information Disclosure Statement has been filed under the wrong rule, the United States Patent and Trademark Office is requested to consider this Information Disclosure Statement under the correct rule, with a petition if necessary.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 04-1105, under Order No. 56775(70551). A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: August 24, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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Registration No.: 27,840
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Application No. (if known): 10/015,446

Attorney Docket No.: 56775(70551)

Certificate of Express Mailing Under 37 CFR 1.10

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. **EV 437816169 US** in an envelope addressed to:

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Date

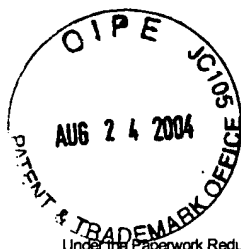
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Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
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Form PTO/SB/08a/b (w/2 references)
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PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)

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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/015,446-Conf. #4596
				Filing Date	December 12, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Norio Kanetsuki
				Art Unit	1765
				Examiner Name	L. Vinh
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	56775(70551)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	BA	JP-2000-349253	12-15-2000		Abstract	✓
	BB	JP-9-82687	03-28-1997			✓

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²

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¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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